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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

VU, THANH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

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14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/500,449

Applicant(s)

TAIMA, KATSUYUKI

Examiner

Thanh T. Vu

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 15-19, 26-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mullaney (U.S. Pat. No. 5,917,484).

Per claim 15, Mullaney teaches a device comprising: a display unit; means for displaying a first screen for selecting a display language on the display unit (fig. 4; col. 5, lines 4-7); and means for displaying a second screen with an option on the display unit (fig. 4; "<Back"), the option having a same appearance regardless of the display language currently selected (col. 2, lines 51-59), wherein the first screen is displayed when the option is designated on the second screen (col. 7, lines 27-29).

Per claim 16, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 15, wherein the option is indicated in a predetermined language regardless of the display language currently selected (col. 2, lines 51-59).

Per claim 17, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 16, wherein the predetermined language is English (fig. 5).

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Per claim 18, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 15, wherein the option is indicated by a predetermined symbol regardless of the display language currently selected (fig. 5, "<Back").

Per claim 19, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 15, wherein the second screen provides plural options for various device settings (fig. 5; items: 504, 506, and 508).

Per claim 26, Mullaney teaches a device comprising: a display unit; means for displaying a screen on the display unit for selecting a display language (fig. 4); and a dedicated key switch provided outside of the display unit, wherein the display language selection screen is directly displayed on the display unit when the dedicated key switch is operated (col. 5, lines 4-7).

Per claim 27, Mullaney teaches a display device comprising: a display unit which displays a first screen for selecting a display language (fig. 4) and a second screen with an option (fig. 5; "<Back"), wherein the first screen is displayed when the option is designated (col. 7, lines 27-29); and a control unit which controls the option to appear the same regardless of the display language currently selected (col. 5, lines 39-46).

Per claim 28, Mullaney teaches a display device according to claim 27, wherein the option is indicated in a predetermined language regardless of the display language currently selected (col. 2, lines 51-59).

Per claim 29, Mullaney teaches a display device according to claim 27, wherein the option is indicated by a predetermined symbol regardless of the display language currently selected (fig. 5; "<Back").

Per claim 30, Mullaney teaches a method of display comprising: displaying a first screen with an option in a first display language (fig. 5; "<Back"; col. 5, lines 39-42); displaying a second screen for selecting a display language when the option is designated on the first screen, and setting the selected language through the second screen as a second display language, the second display language being different from the first display language (fig. 4; col. 7, lines 27-29); and displaying a third screen with the option in the second display language, said option having a same appearance as in the first screen (fig. 5).

Per claim 31, Mullaney teaches a display device according to claim 30, wherein the option is indicated in a predetermined language regardless of the display language currently selected (col. 2, lines 51-59).

Per claim 32, Mullaney teaches a display device according to claim 30, wherein the option is indicated by a predetermined symbol regardless of the display language currently selected (fig. 5; "<Back").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullaney (U.S. Pat. No. 5,917,484) in view of Microsoft Internet Explorer ("IE").

Per claim 20, Mullaney teaches a device comprising: a display unit; means for displaying a first screen on the display unit for selecting a display language (fig. 4; col. 5, lines 4-7); and means for displaying a plurality of second screens on the display unit, each of which has an option (figs. 5 and 6, "<Back"), wherein the first screen is displayed when the option is designated on any one of the second screens (col. 7, lines 27-29). Mullaney does not teach that the first screen is directly displayed when the option is designated on any one of the second screens. However, IE teaches that the first screen is directly displayed when the option is designated on any one of the second screens (figs 2-5; first screen: fig. 2; the first screen is directly displayed when the home button 10 is clicked on any one of the second screens (figs 3-5)). Accordingly, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include that the first screen is displayed when the option is designated on any of the second screens as taught by IE in the invention of Mullaney in order to provide users a user friendly interface wherein the users can go back to the first screen directly without the need to click on the "Back" button multiple times.

Per claim 21, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 20, wherein the option has a same appearance regardless of the display language currently selected (col. 2, lines 51-59).

Per claim 22, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 21, wherein the option is indicated in a predetermined language regardless of the display language currently selected (col. 2, lines 51-59).

Per claim 23, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined language is English (figs. 5 and 6).

Per claim 24, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 21, wherein the option is indicated by a predetermined symbol regardless of the display language currently selected (Figs 5 and 6; "<Back").

Per claim 25, Mullaney teaches a device according to claim 20, wherein the second screen provides plural options for various device settings (fig. 5; items: 504, 506, and 508).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 3/17/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's primary argument regarding Mullaney's reference is that Mullaney does not teach that the "Back" button on fig. 5 will have the same appearance regardless of the language selected on fig. 4. The examiner does not agree because Mullaney teaches that for example, an English-speaking User A who purchases the computer system is presented the language selection screen illustrated in fig. 4 upon its first power up. After selecting a language, User A may view the screens of figs. 5-8 in his native language. If the computer system is sold to a French speaking User B, User A can reinvoke the system to display language selection screen of fig. 4 and configure system locale for User B while viewing the screens of figs. 5-8 in his own locale or language (See col. 2, lines 46-59 and further in col. 5, lines 36-45). According, Mullaney clearly teach that regardless of the language selected on the language selection screen in fig. 4, the user may view the screens of figs. 5-8 in his own native language. As the result, the screens of figs. 5-8 will have the same appearance regardless of the language selected on the language selection screen of fig. 4.

Applicant's arguments regarding claim 20 is moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

With respect to claim 26, Mulanney teaches that a user can invoke the language selection screen in one of two ways: by entering an appropriate command or upon powering up the computer system (col. 5, lines 4-7). Thus, a user can initiate the language selection screen directly by entering command through computer keyboard or reboot the computer by pressing the power on/off or restart button on the system. Both of these ways are provided outside of the display.


Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (703)-308-9119. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (703) 308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-746-7239 for regular communications and (703)-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

T. Vu
June 22, 2003


SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER